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## Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Funding Requests

### *Imperial—New El Centro Family Courthouse*

Lake—New Lakeport Courthouse  
Monterey—New South Monterey County Courthouse  
Riverside—New Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse  
Sacramento—New Sacramento Criminal Courthouse  
Shasta—New Redding Courthouse  
Sonoma—New Santa Rosa Criminal Courthouse  
Sutter—New Yuba City Courthouse

In April 2008, the Judicial Council updated its Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan that includes 152 new-construction, major renovation, and expansion projects estimated to cost \$9.3 billion (January 2008 dollars). The Initial funding request for these eight referenced projects was \$88.2 million for the 2009–2010 Fiscal Year, which would be funded by the Immediate and Critical Needs Account of the State Court Facilities Fund in proposed court revenue bond legislation Senate Bill 1407 (Perata). Their total project costs are estimated to be \$1.4 billion. If approved, these projects mark important progress toward implementing needed projects for trial courts across California.

### New El Centro Family Courthouse

A new El Centro Family Courthouse is proposed by the AOC for initial funding of \$9.82 million for FY 2009–2010. The new facility will house 4 courtrooms. The estimated total cost for this courthouse of approximately 54,000 gross square feet is \$76.4 million (escalated to construction mid-point in Summer 2013). The Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) has initiated project planning for development of land adjacent to a potential site for the new courthouse. Should this site be the preferred site for the new courthouse, the AOC may jointly participate in extending infrastructure at a reduced cost to the State. This project is ranked in the Immediate Need Project Priority Group of the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan and is one of the highest priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

### Lack of Security, Severe Overcrowding, Poor Physical Conditions, and Reduced Access to Court Services

The County of Imperial is served by two existing juvenile and family trial court locations within the City of El Centro. These court facilities are functionally deficient, overcrowded, and among the worst in the state in terms of security. The existing facilities will remain incapable of meeting the region's growing demand for court

services. The overcrowding and lack of proper security at the existing facilities and the public's hindered access to court services are among the reasons why the proposed new El Centro Family Courthouse is urgently needed.



Severely Undersized and Overcrowded Courtroom

### Local Government Collaboration on Project

The ICOE has expressed interest in partnering with the State for land acquisition and installation of infrastructure necessary to support the project of each agency. These commitments may result in reduced costs for land and infrastructure, and allow the project to move more quickly into the design phase.

### Long-term Funding Needs

The California legislature is considering authorizing a revenue bond to pay for the state's most urgently needed court projects. This legislation proposes increasing criminal penalties and other filing fees to be contributed to the State Court Facilities Construction Fund for the sole purpose of funding court construction projects.

### More Information

A project feasibility report for the New El Centro Family Courthouse, dated July 1, 2008, was prepared by AOC staff. This report documents the poor functional and physical conditions of the existing El Centro Courthouse and Juvenile Court facilities in Imperial County, explores options for how best to meet the needs of the court and of the public, and estimates the cost to construct a new facility. This document can be downloaded from the following Web site:

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-imperial.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/documents/pfr-imperial.pdf)

For further information, please email the AOC-Office of Court Construction and Management at [OCCM@jud.ca.gov](mailto:OCCM@jud.ca.gov).